

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-9 are pending; Claims 4-7 and 9 are withdrawn from consideration; Claims 2 and 3 are amended; and Claim 1 is canceled herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title is objected to; and Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,188,608 to Maruyama et al.; Claim 8 was allowed; and Claims 2 and 3 were indicated as allowable.

At the outset, Applicants request the Examiner consider references AO and AP submitted in the IDS dated February 23, 2004. Only the three U.S. patent references AA, AB, and AC were initialized on the IDS form.

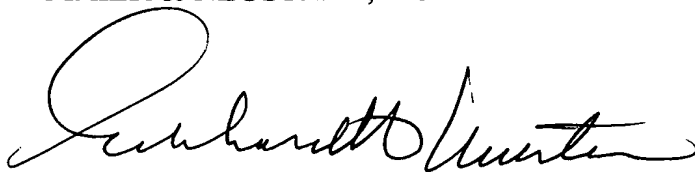
With regard to the objection to the title, the title has been amended. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claim 8 is allowed and Claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, each of Claims 2 and 3 are amended to include the features of original Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 2, 3 and 8 are all in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-3 and 8 are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eckhard H. Kuesters', written over a horizontal line.

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